



March 6, 2016

Testimony, SB 361 An Act Revising the State Code of Ethics

My name is Kevin Galvin. I am Chairman of the organization Small Business For A Healthy Connecticut, A Connecticut Small Business owner for thirty years, an active advocate stakeholder in Connecticut's Health Care reform and a member of State Innovation Model (SIM)'s Consumer Advisory Board (CAB).

I am proud to say I am the person who brought the need for consistent ethics language for SIM to the Consumer Advisory Committee 18 months ago. I am pleased that this bill SB 361 is now before this committee.

With The SIM operating a \$45,000,000.00 grant with wide ranging authority more in fact than most State Councils and Taskforces the need for a strong Ethics language is obvious. All State appointees should work under the same Ethics code. That code should be applied consistently regardless of what State Executive makes the appointments. SB 361 fixes the "loophole" in the present law that exempts appointees of the Lieutenant Governor from falling under the 1977 State Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

An argument against stronger Ethics language for SIM has been made that if SIM is held to the same standards as all other State appointees individuals will not be interested in participating the SIM process.

In all discussions I have had with individuals I believe could be potential appointees as well as discussions with fellow CAB members I have found no one that if SB 361 were in place would not accept an appointment.

Another argument has been that Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had certified the previous weaker Ethics language SIM had been operating under in recent months.

This is just not true. Furthermore, CMS has not officially commented the SIM Ethics issue.

SB 361 gives this Legislature the very timely opportunity to set strong and consistent Ethics standards for SIM.

I would urge you to vote favorably on SB361.

Sincerely,

Kevin Galvin, Chairman

